

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 L-03 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 TRSE-00 ICA-20

NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 /080 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9550

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 06195

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL SEMI-ANNUAL
REPORT - MEXICO

REF: STATE 83179

1. SITUATION: MEXICO CONTINUES TO BE A MAJOR PRODUCER OF OPIUM, HEROIN AND MARIJUANA, AND A SIGNIFICANT TRANSIT COUNTRY FOR COCAINE. THE GOM REMAINS COMMITTED TO AN EFFECTIVE ERADICATION PROGRAM AND GOM REPORTS, PARTIALLY CONFIRMED BY U.S. PERSONNEL IN THE FIELD, INDICATE THAT SIGNIFICANTLY LESS POPPY IS BEING GROWN IN 1978 THAN IN COMPARABLE PERIODS OF 1977. GOM INTERDICTION EFFORTS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE AND THE JANUS PROSECUTION PROGRAM IS BACK ON TRACK WITH SEVERAL MAJOR PROSECUTIONS EXPECTED SHORTLY.

2. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS: AVIATION OPERATIONS PROCEED SATISFACTORILY WITH THE AIRFLEET FLYING A RECORD 2,910 HOURS IN MARCH. TWENTY-FIVE ADDITIONAL FIXED-WING PILOTS WERE HIRED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE AND SENT TO THE UNITED STATES FOR ROTARY-WING TRAINING. AVIATION MAINTENANCE SEEMS TO HAVE STABILIZED UNDER THE E-UNCLASSIFIED

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SYSTEMS CONTRACT AND THE CONTRACTOR BREAK-IN PERIOD APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN COMPLETED. FLEET AVAILABILITY IN MARCH AVERAGED 64 PERCENT, LOWER THAN DESIRED BUT APPROXIMATING THE ACCEPTABILITY FIGURE USED BY THE U.S. AIR FORCE, AND 21 NEW MECHANICS WERE HIRED AND SENT TO THE U.S. FOR LONG-TERM (74 WEEKS) TRAINING. PRIMARY TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS NOW LINK ALL 13 ZONES, TESTS OF A FLIGHT-FOLLOWING

COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK WERE COMPLETED AND ONE NETWORK HAS BEEN PLACED IN SERVICE, AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTION PROVIDED FULL COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT TO 1,200 ARMY TROOPS ENGAGED IN NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES. EMBASSY AND ATTORNEY GENERAL PERSONNEL WORKED SEVERAL MONTHS ON DEVELOPING A "NATIONAL PLAN" TO RECREATE IN OTHER ZONES THE TECHNIQUES USED SO SUCCESSFULLY IN ZONE SIX (CULIACAN); THIS PLAN SERVED AS A BASIS FOR THE EMBASSY'S FY-1979 RECOMMENDATIONS. SIMILAR MEETINGS BETWEEN DETENAL (GOM MAPPING AGENCY), ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE, THE U.S. DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY AND THE EMBASSY LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE COLOR TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS FOR TACTICAL AND STRATEGIC USES. GOM APPROVAL WAS GIVEN TO PROCEED ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ADVANCED REMOTE SENSING SYSTEM, USING THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA) AS THE LEAD CONTRACTOR. COMPUTERIZATION OF NARCOTICS INFORMATION RECEIVED A MAJOR BOOST WITH THE NAMING OF A PROVEN, AGGRESSIVE CHIEF FROM THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNIT, AND THREE OF THE PLANNED TWELVE TERMINALS ARE ALREADY IN SERVICE. ON MARCH 13 THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE REFORM OF MARIJUANA LAWS (NORML) FILED SUIT AGAINST STATE, AID, DEA AND AGRICULTURE FOR ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT OF 1969, AND SEEKING AN INJUNCTION AGAINST ANY FURTHER ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES UNTIL THE ALLEGED DEFICIENCIES ARE CORRECTED.

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3. INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL (INC) PERSONNEL:
ON JANUARY ONE ALL INC PERSONNEL IN MEXICO WERE TRANSFERRED FROM AID TO STATE. DIRECT HIRE STAFF EQUALLED AUTHORIZED STRENGTH (3 OFFICERS, 2 CLERICAL, 2 LOCAL) DURING LESS THAN FOUR MONTHS OF REPORTING PERIOD, ALTHOUGH AN AID AUDITOR WAS HERE THROUGHOUT REPORTING PERIOD (AND DEPARTED APRIL 7, SEVEN MONTHS AND ONE DAY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL). FOUR CONTRACT ADVISORS (AVIATION OPERATIONS, AVIATION MAINTENANCE, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION) WERE ON BOARD THROUGHOUT PERIOD. A TOTAL OF 50 VISITORS TRAVELLED TO MEXICO TO CONTRIBUTE EXPERTISE OR EVALUATE PROGRAM. NEAR END OF REPORTING PERIOD, AGREEMENT WITH DEA TO PROVIDE PERSONNEL TO MONITOR ERADICATION CAMPAIGN WAS TERMINATED TO ACCOMMODATE GOM REQUEST THAT NON-POLICE PERSONNEL BE USED FOR THIS PURPOSE; EMBASSY IS MAKING OTHER ARRANGEMENTS TO ASSURE THAT USG-PROVIDED EQUIPMENT IS PROPERLY UTILIZED.

4. FOLLOWING INC-FUNDED COMMODITIES ARRIVED IN-COUNTRY DURING REPORTING PERIOD:

12 CESSNA 206 STATIONAIRE II AIRCRAFT
1 BEECH A-200 KINGAIR AIRCRAFT
6 STABILIZED BINOCULARS
25 AVIATION HELMETS, AZIMUTH PLOTTERS, GRAPHIC COMPUTERS,
MAP CASES
8 HG-SSB MOTOROLA MICOR BASE STATION TRANSCEIVERS
20 VHF-AM KING BASE STATION TRANSCEIVERS
15 VHF-AM COMCO HAND-HELD TRANSCEIVERS
VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDER/PLAYER, VIDEO MONITORS AND TAPES
OVERHEAD PROJECTOR AND ACCESSORIES
ONE LOT AIRCRAFT SPARE PARTS

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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 06195

EO 11652: N/A
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REPORT - MEXICO

ONE LOT TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOOLS, SPARE PARTS AND TEST
EQUIPMENT. LUCEY

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